

**From:** [kristen.mcdonald](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [Tim Lamkin](#)  
**Subject:** REGARDING SB89  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 03, 2023 10:13:33 PM

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Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I have lived and worked as a registered nurse in Alaska for the past 23 years. Living and working in Alaska has been an incredible experience that has allowed me to develop my nursing skills in unique and challenging situations. I am excited to see my daughter continue our family's legacy of providing compassionate care to those in need. She graduates from nursing school next year. In high school, she was in honor society and worked as a youth inspector who conducted "tobacco compliance checks" to make sure tobacco retailers were following the law and not selling tobacco to underage buyers.

She started vaping in the car during our first visit after she started college. I felt stunned. She ignored my warning because I "didn't understand," she said. She used e-cigarettes, just like all of her classmates. They were popular and widely believed to be harmless: "No worries, mom." Within a year, she started having breathing problems and a persistent cough. To help her regain her lungs and her life, we devised a plan and set up a schedule for tapering off and stopping. Given how addictive e-cigarettes are, it was painful and difficult to watch her struggle. She was eventually able to kick her e-cigarette addiction thanks to her drive to succeed. She was fortunate; the damage to her lungs was caught early and reversible.

Whatever steps need to be taken to protect our youth, please take them.

Sincerely,  
Kristen McDonald